



SHIIP Combo Form

**Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program
North Carolina Department of Insurance**

1-800-443-9354

www.ncshiip.com

What is SHIIP?

Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) is a consumer information division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance that assists people with Medicare, Medicare Part D, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, and long-term care insurance questions. We also help citizens recognize and prevent Medicare billing errors and possible fraud and abuse through our NCSMP Program.

How does SHIIP work?

SHIIP provides education and assistance to North Carolinians in three ways:

- by operating a toll-free consumer information phone line Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- by training volunteers, including senior citizens, to counsel Medicare beneficiaries within their community about Medicare, Medicare Part D, Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage and long-term care insurance, and
- by creating educational materials for consumers' use including the *Medicare Supplement Comparison Guide* and featuring a Medicare Supplement Comparison Database on our Web site (www.ncshiip.com).

When was SHIIP started?

The program was founded in 1986 by then Insurance Commissioner Jim Long in direct response to the growing concerns about health insurance for the more than one million Medicare beneficiaries in North Carolina. More than 100 different insurance companies sell Medicare supplements, Medicare Advantage, long-term care insurance and other medical insurance products to people in North Carolina. Because there are so many companies, and because the Medicare system is so complex, Commissioner Long felt there needed to be an objective information service for people with Medicare, so he founded SHIIP.

How do North Carolinians contact SHIIP?

You can contact SHIIP by dialing the nationwide toll-free consumer number, 1-800-443-9354, visiting the SHIIP Web site www.ncshiip.com or e-mailing shiip@ncdoi.net. Trained SHIIP Volunteer Counselors are available in all 100 counties of North Carolina who are coordinated through an existing human service agency such as the Council on Aging or the Cooperative Extension offices. If your problem is too complex to handle over the phone, you will need to contact your local SHIIP Coordinator for a one-on-one appointment with a SHIIP Volunteer Counselor.

Can I get more information on SHIIP?

Yes! Contact SHIIP nationwide at **1-800-443-9354** or **(919) 807-6900**, visit **www.ncshiip.com** or e-mail **shiip@ncdoi.net** for further information and ask for more details on the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program and how it can help you.